

In the Claims:

1. (original) A threaded ring the one-piece body of which provided with internal threading (14, 16) has at least two body components (10, 12), the first (10) of which forms a set collar with an end plane surface (22) positioned in the radial plane and the second body component (12) of which forms a retaining ring which is connected to the first body component (10) to form a gap (26) positioned between the two body components (10, 12) by way of the elastically flexible wall component (32) of the body and has an actuating mechanism by means of which the geometry of the gap (26) can be adjusted on the basis of the elastic flexibility of the wall component (32) along the longitudinal axis of the body, characterized in that in the preinstallation state between the components of the actuating mechanism and components of the body there is a contact surface (46) which is provided with a definable inclination and that the angle of inclination (a) is selected relative to the longitudinal axis of the body such that in the installation state the threaded flank clearance which occurs is eliminated.

2. (original) The threaded ring as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact surface (46) runs perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the body in the installed state with the elimination of the threaded flank clearance.

3. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of tensioning means permitting modification of the width of the gap (26) at selected points.

4. (original) The threaded ring as claimed in claim 3, wherein in the preinstallation state the inclined contact surface (46) is situated between the individual tensioning means and the second body component (12).

5. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein a part of the contact surface (46) is assigned to each tensioning means.

6. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 3 to 5, wherein the respective tensioning means at the end acts on the second body component (12) and preferably is integrated in the latter in at least one recess (through bore 42).

7. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 3 to 6, wherein as the tensioning means there are set screws (34) distributed uniformly over a coaxial graduated circle, which set screws penetrate the gap (26) parallel with the axis, and are supported with their screw heads (38) in the installed state on the contact surface (46) on the second body component (12).

8. (original) The threaded ring as claimed in claim 7, wherein hexagonal head screws are provided as set screws (34), which to the extent they are countersunk in assignable recesses (through bores 42) of the second body component (12) in the installed state, form with their screw heads (38) to the external front face (44) of the second body component (12) a clamping angle (b) which corresponds to the angle of inclination (a) in the preinstallation state.

9. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 8, wherein the second body component (12) functioning as a retaining ring has for the purpose of forming the elastically flexible wall component (32) an outside diameter equal to the outside diameter of the first body component (10) in the form of a set collar.

10. (currently amended) The threaded ring as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 9, wherein the angle of inclination (a) is one half to five degrees, preferably one to three degrees.